(b) Does not arise.

(c) According to legal advice it would not be constitutionally permissible to provide enhanced age-limit for women only on the ground of sex.

New Multinational Drug Companies in the country

*343. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Multinational Drug Companies which have started operating in the country after the announcement of liberalised financial policy;

(b) the number of licences issued till date for manufacture of drugs or for enhancing the existing manufacturing capacities in respect of each company/ drug etc; and

(c) what steps Government have taken for indigenous production/research and development in various systems of medicines to save the out flow of foreign exchange?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN): (a) and (b) While no new multinational drug company has started dperating in the country after the announcement of the liberalised industrial policy, 30 industrial approvals including letters of intent have been issued to the existing companies for manufacture of drugs as new articles or for enhancing existing capacities.

(c) Various incentives like broad banding, regularisation of production, re-endorsement of capacities, ratio parameters etc. are available in the existing Drug Policy, 1986, which are aimed towards increasing indigenous production. There are several Central Research Laboratories engaged in R & D activities in various systems of medicines. Under Drug Policy'86 the following incentives for R & D are available to pharmaceutical industry:

(i) Expenditure incurred on R & D is taken into account while determining cost of production of bulk drugs under price control.

(ii) A company is allowed to retain 50% of the reduction in price of price controlled bulk drug achieved through R & D efforts.

* (iii) if a company develops a process for a bulk drug through its own R&D efforts or through National Laboratories, from basic stage, and Which is significantly different from existing Processes and results in cost-effective Production, exemption from price control is available for a period not exceeding 5 Years from the date of commercial Production.

(iv) Higher profitability ceiling for units engaged in approved research and development work relating to new drugs.

(v) As in case of R & D work in other Sectors of Industry, Pharmaceutical Sector also enjoys incentives and support measures such as Income Tax relief, Accelerated Depreciation allowance, Import facility etc.

To encourage R&D activity in Pharmaceutical Industry a number of further suggestions are under examination as part of the Review of the Drug Policy, the background note in regard to which has already been placed in both the Houses of Parliament for obtainting the views of Members of Parliament before taking necessary final decison in the •natter.

सरकारी क्षेत्र के एककों का घाटा

*346. श्री ईश दत्त यादवः क्या प्रधान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे किः

(क) क्या सरकारी क्षेत्र के एककों के घाटे को कम करने के लिए सरकार इन एककों को सुदृढ़ बनाने के किन्हीं कदमों पर विचार कर रही है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो उनका ब्यौरा क्या है; और